

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6155

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17577

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, UR, ENRG, GW, WB

SUBJECT: SALE OF FRG REACTOR TO USSR

REF: BONN 17186

1. INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE SOURCES (ONE OF WHOM WAS PRESENT AT SCHMIDT-KOSYGIN CONVERSATION) PERSUADES US THAT CHANCELLOR'S APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON SAFEGUARDS ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT FOR USSR WAS PROBABLY AT BEST PRO FORMA. THIS, OF COURSE, IS NOT SURPRISING SINCE IN SPITE OF OUR HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS ON THE SUBJECT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY GERMAN ENTHUSIASM FOR MAKING SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF SAFEGUARDS A CONDITION FOR THE PROJECT. THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT ONCE THE FRG'S DESIDERATA ON BERLIN ARE SATISFIED, THE GERMANS WILL WISH TO PUSH AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT WITHOUT SAFEGUARDS PROVISIONS. THIS COULD BE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE USSR WANTS TO INCLUDE

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THIS POWER PLANT (AND POSSIBLY 2 OR 3 ADDITIONAL

ONES) IN ITS FORTHCOMING FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

2. THIS PROJECT IS CLOSE TO THE HEART OF THE CHANCELLOR AND OTHER SENIOR GERMANS. BERLIN SENATOR STOBBE HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, MOST RECENTLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ARRANGEMENT FOR BERLIN DURING CALL ON AMBASSADOR ON NOVEMBER 7. STOBBE ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF TWO-WAY TRANSMISSION. WE CAN, WE BELIEVE, EXPECT THE FRG TO PUSH US HARD TO DROP OUR SAFEGUARDS CONDITION. FURTHERMORE, WE CANNOT EXPECT MUCH SUPPORT FOR OUR VIEWS ON SAFEGUARDS (OR ON COCOM CONSIDERATIONS) FROM THE OPPOSITION OR THE MEDIA IN ANY PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES IN THE FRG. WE CONSIDER IT LIKELY THAT THE CHANCELLOR WILL HIMSELF PRESS THIS ISSUE WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON UNLESS THE QUESTION IS RESOLVED BEFORE THAT TIME. HE WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD MAINTAIN THAT SINCE THE SOVIETS WILL NEVER ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS, IN THE INTERESTS OF BERLIN THE GERMANS MUST GO AHEAD WITH THE SALE OF THE PROJECT WITHOUT THEM.

HILLENBRAND

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